

**Utah Division of Indian Affairs  
FY 2004 Annual Report**

**To**

**Native American Legislative Liaison Committee**

**October 2004**

### **Mission Statement**

It is the purpose of the Division to develop programs that will allow Indian citizens an opportunity to share in the progress of Utah, promote an atmosphere in which Indian citizens are provided alternatives so that they may choose for themselves the kinds of lives they will live, both socially and economically, and promote programs to help the tribes and Indian communities find and implement solutions to their community problems.

### **Accomplishments**

**Indian Information Technology (IT) - Smartsites:** The Utah Division of Indian Affairs (UDIA) partnered with the Division of Business Development in establishing additional Indian IT operations. As a result of this endeavor, there are presently five (5) Utah Smartsites in operation: 1) Uintah River Technology (Ute Tribe) LLC, 2) NWB Technologies (Shoshone Tribe) LLC, 3) Suh Dutsing Technologies (Paiute) LLC, 4) Montezuma Creek Indian Community (Navajo Nation) NAVASEW, and 5) Skull Valley Band IT Company.

**Honoring Our Youth Indian Governor's Initiative on Families Today (GIFT) Conference:** More than 800 youths and their parents attended the GIFT conference May 1, 2004 at the South Jordan High School. 771 young people received awards from Governor Walker at the conference. Nationally renowned American Indian motivational speaker, Howard Rainer (Taos Pueblo), was the guest speaker at this exciting event. Mr. Rainer challenged the Indian youth to become strong and yield to his message to "Stand Tall" in all issues facing Indian youth and their communities.

**Intergovernmental Relations:** UDIA continues to facilitate a positive relationship and dialogue between Utah Tribal leaders, the Governor's Office, and the State of Utah, through annual meetings with the Utah Legislature (Native American Legislative Liaison Committee held December 3, 2003), and with the Governor (meeting held January 26, 2004). UDIA director continues to provide over 120 informational presentations to schools, colleges, social clubs, and various civic organizations, presentations which serve to promote understanding and positive relations among all citizens of the State of Utah.

**History Book Project:** UDIA secured a \$10,000 grant from the George S. and Dolores Dore' Eccles Foundation to enable the reprinting of *A History of Utah's American Indians*. UDIA produced a total of 2,000 soft back copies for distribution by Utah State University Press.

**Indigenous Day:** Over 100 tribal leaders and their guests attended the Indigenous Day Dinner and Awards celebration November 24, 2003 at the Governor's Mansion. Governor Walker was present and provided remarks. A total of 10 people were honored for their outstanding leadership and dedication to Utah's American Indian people.

**Indian Education:** UDIA continues to place a high priority on education and its impact upon sustainable business development. On September 17, 2003, UDIA presented the Indian

Education Task Force Report to the Utah Education Interim Committee. On September 19, 2003, we participated in the Governor's Summits on Competency-Measured Education to discuss the ***PerformancePlus Program***. UDIA participated in federal initiative "***No Child Left Behind***" forums held throughout the state. UDIA has worked closely with Tribal Education Departments (TEDS) in statewide efforts to improve educational opportunities for Indian youth.

**Housing:** UDIA established the ***American Indian Housing Council*** to coordinate housing related activities and opportunities that benefit Utah Indian communities. The Council consists of tribal housing authority directors, state/federal housing representatives, and other groups such as private and non-profit housing organizations. It meets quarterly with monthly executive committee meetings.

**Indian Youth:** This past year, UDIA was instrumental in identifying and assisting tribes access funding opportunities in the areas of tobacco and alcohol prevention, highway safety, and other programs targeting Indian youth.

### **Partnerships**

UDIA director serves in an ex-officio role on the **Circle of Wellness, Inc.** Board of Trustees.

UDIA director serves in an ex-officio role on the **Rocky Mountain American Indian Economic and Education Foundation, Inc.**, that provides training and technical assistance to tribes in the education and business development.

UDIA director serves in an ex-officio role on the **American Indian Housing Council**.

UDIA director serves on the following advisory committees:

- U of U American West Center
- U of U Museum of Natural History
- U of U Graduate School of Social Work
- Utah Intergovernmental Roundtable

### **Legislative Initiatives**

S.B. 67 ***Designation of American Indian Heritage Month and Indigenous People Day***

H.B. 55 ***School and Institutional Trust Land Amendments***